

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
East Providence School Committee
East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber
145 Taunton Avenue
East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

July 14, 2015

Open Session

Mr. Tsonos, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
Members present: Jessica Beauchaine, Nathan Cahoon, Anthony Ferreira, Joel Monteiro, Charles Tsonos. Also present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent of Schools; Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence were observed.

Motion made by Mr. Cahoon to Set a Curfew for School Committee Meeting – move to executive session by 9:30PM; executive session no later than one hour (until 10:30PM), seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 3-2 (Ms. Beauchaine voted no and Mr. Ferreira voted no. Mr. Tsonos requested more information on guide or target for School Committee. Mr. Ferreira wanted to add one half hour to executive session; go in at 9:30Pm and stay no longer than one and one half

hours, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. All voted aye.

Presentation on the Tennis Court Refurbishment Project (John Carnevale) – Mr. Cahoon voted to move this item on the agenda between Item G & H. Seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment I – Agenda Items – Allie Laughlin – Silver Spring parents very involved in Bradley and Craft Programs and want to be part of the resolution and to be able to comment on it.

Mr. Tsonos – School Committee will take questions on it.

Facilities Report (William Reynolds)

Facilities Sub-Committee Meeting Report on Projects – Meeting held on July 8th; discussion of ongoing projects:

Phase 1 Door Replacement Project (Orlo, Whiteknact and Riverside Middle School); Berman has not been working on the doors and Orlo Fire Alarm punch list as aggressively as first expected, but will be developing a schedule this week and will work to adhere to their commitment; (estimated 3 weeks).

Advantage Glass will be removing all the film from the aluminum glass doors; still waiting for Berman to revise the soffit change order to include the Riverside M/S roof repair; they cannot proceed with the soffit work until this is finalized unless we do 2 change orders. (They

are having problems getting someone to quote such a small roof job.)

Once the project and punch list gets underway, weekly project meetings will be held with all parties.

Status of Phase II Door Project - Change orders 1, 2, & 3 have been signed; Change order #4 is holding up some of the ordering due to some hardware on doors in CO #3. Waiting for Berman to revise pricing. The District has sent a letter that allows Berman to order the metal doors for Martin and Francis prior to CO#4 being approved.

Status of sidewalk repairs at Riverside Middle School and Martin Middle School

Riverside Middle School – RIDE is willing to reimburse for the project and let proceed as a change order if we are able to get it done this summer and conform to their regulations. We will need to get a letter from the Fire Marshal and Building Inspector saying that it is a safety issue and needs immediate repair. They will give relief on the bidding process due to time, provided SMMA prices the project and Duarte comes in at or under estimate. Handicapped ramp is needed at front entrance and is being designed in; timeframe is very tight and will have to phase.

HVAC – Unit Ventilators at High School – Heating at High School for 2015-2016 school year; have quotes and was ready to go but RIDE

will not reimburse unless designed by the proper specs. May have to oversize for noise etc. Must meet Northeast CHPS guidelines. Will be working with engineer on design.

High School Pool - Funding not justified at this time; doesn't mean that other funding (grants, etc.) may be available at another time.

Status of RFP's for Architectural and Project Management Services for the next Stage II effort - Expect to be sending out proposals this week

Prioritization of Known Repair Needs/ Stage II / Fire Marshall - Priority Items

Fire Safety Projects – Top Priority

Phase 2 of the Door Project

High School – Unit Ventilator Replacement

Riverside Middle School – Sidewalk

Silver Spring – Side Stairway

Martin Middle School – Sidewalk and Roadway

Hennessey – Schoolyard Fence Repair

Whiteknact – Fence Repair

High School – Window asbestos caulk abatement

Building and Chimney Pointing (Various, Waddington first)

High School Tennis Courts

Director reported that he has been working with Linda Dykeman,

Tony Feola, and SMMA for RIDE reimbursement on current and future projects such as – Riverside Middle School Handicap ramp, lift, and emergency evacuation route; Waddington - Handicap bathrooms and lift; Whiteknact - floor abatement. Also working with Linda, Tony, and Ben to get the necessary information for RIDE; High School Tennis Courts – will be working with John Carnevale to get the tennis courts ready for school start; High School Auditorium – Panels getting painted, should be completed tomorrow; Waddington Bathrooms – Punch list complete; Waddington vegetable garden boxes installed and the old boxes will be removed in the fall; Martin – small handicap accessible projects going on; there is a large bathroom that will need to be designed to meet ADA and RIDE approvals.

Mr. Ferreira – requested that the School Committee receive a timeline from Duarte; four weeks or six weeks; add ADA ramp

Mr. Reynolds six weeks without the ramp

Mr. Tsonos – no penalties for timeline; door project estimated on time; date for completion?

Mr. Reynolds will have that by the end of the week.

Mr. Ferreira requested construction meetings on Friday again; Bill Reynolds– by next Friday, July 24th.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to move up item H2 on the agenda regarding RI Interlocal Trust, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Approval of the Trust OPEB Funding Program – copy of presentation (handouts)

Mr. Ian Ridlon from the Trust explained that OPEB liabilities will be listed on the balance sheet as a liability; School Committee would need to pass a resolution to begin immediately.

Mr. Cahoon – when did Budget Commission come in; Mr. Moore and the Superintendent started funding this two years ago.

Mr. Cahoon – those funds would be available right away; Mr. Moore –\$ 2 million; Budget Commission – both schools and city OPEB- wanted us to take care of this; under City Trust and schools Trust

Mr. Ferreira – how much should we fund every year for this

Mr. Moore – at end of 25 years there should be no liability; \$12.6 million in; going forward in the budget; if we do not do that, there would be a problem down the road

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve resolution, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to move to Item D on agenda – John Carnevale - Approval of Tennis Court Refurbishment Project, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Carnevale stated that courts will need to be dug out \$120,000 project for the future; plan now is to take care of for this year; about \$25,000; in collaboration with volunteers will get ready for August 17th three-year temporary fix; fixing cracks, etc. and should be finished in a month; he urged School Committee to put together a plan for the next three years - \$25,000 now; D'Amours Step will put in

\$15,000; have donated light posts from PC;

Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve \$25,000; no one to bid; no possibility; D'Amours doing job for students;

Mr. Ferreira – light posts in; will our city help install

John Carnevale – working with National Grid; ask to erect poles and will get quotes how much involved; not sure if National Grid will do whole thing; he is developing a plan for track; maybe will come to next School Committee meeting with that information.

Motion seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Superintendent's Report

Presentation of Support Services at Silver Spring School and the Craft Program

Ms. Beauchaine – can we look at someone in education who has dealt with this over time

Eileen Crudele- can talk about; but Bachelor's Degree required

Ms. Beauchaine – Craft – got materials from Bradley; according to program should be daily communication between teachers and Bradley; she would like to make sure we are doing this; if any problems, teachers should be able to call a number and discuss problems.

Mrs. Caffrey explained Craft Program – the log falls through the cracks; children being the carriers of communication is not working;

Dr. Gillen holds discussions with concerns about child; bringing in students more gradually; explained how she handles; need someone right away to be beneficial; communication and using them full time is a plus; Bradley not meant to stay there forever; East Providence would pick it up and use as a model; model introduced by Ms. Crudele is a good one; need to hire staff; this model services all children; we are responsible for EP students and this is totally doable but need to get on it.

Mr. Cahoon – if we use consultative model, what would we be watching for?

Mrs. Caffrey – would defer to Ms. Crudele; number of kids in the room; distribute students fairly across district and what they are placed into; watch numbers.

Kelly – parent at Silver Spring asked why does Silver Spring have Bradley as home school; if turmoil and problems there, why does district distribute students to there; why do we have to fix it.

Ms. Crudele – we place all students at home school but if not space; legally obligated to educate them closest to where they live.

Kate Butler – parent – intensive staff supervision at all times; why not have Bradley provide staff; why not distribute students to all schools.

Ali – Parent – quality education for all kids; did not work out with staff; 50% of staff left for more security; Craft issue; Bradley issue; if

you can get staff OK; only six weeks until school starts; we need support and they need to support us; substitute teacher shortage.

Mr. Ferreira– 11 or 12 questions; no answers; why are parents and teachers coming up with questions and no answers given?

Ms. Crudele - cannot speak to Craft program - get information on students arriving; meet with Principals monthly; staff communicates (come in or on the phone) she does not dictate their treatment.

Mr. Monteiro – we need to stop finger pointing; issue at state level; students regarded as residents; delicate balance; what is in place is not working; they are not responsible for any more; teachers are at mercy of what happens that day; we need to meet needs of students; discussion needs to continue further; responsibilities of Bradley; they will do no more than they need to; we need to do the responsible thing.

Jon Anderson, Esq. legal counsel advised that the legal analysis is correct; this is delicate and have to balance school performance; talking about children.

Stacy Messier –she just bid into the school; great presentation; questions for Bradley; they are not here; not fair to School Committee; teachers left; others bid there; all did not “get out.” This program crucial; need resources to use; all kids benefit; there is a

way to fix the problems.

Ms. Beauchaine – teachers may have left school because nothing there; talked about teachers leaving.

Shane Messier – graduate of East Providence Schools, has worked in the system; sees as over view; Craft Program is a group home; not going to get support; fear of knowing what we have now; plan excellent job with presentation; this is best thing for our students, Craft children and the community; this needs to be done tonight to make a better place for students.

Karen Rebello – all kids learn from the program; all kids should be supported; with this program it would be an outstanding program; Bradley has always responded ; she would like to work with moving program forward; it can be done.

Kelly – parent – three therapeutic; any other schools with this; why are we rolling over;

Ms. Crudele – they stop at registration first; now established a system with two week lead time; getting records beforehand; something in place now.

Gary, parent – has kids at Silver Spring - does not see concrete metrics – resources up front; reallocate or de-allocate resources; pilot needs to have milestones; set metrics and expectations; need to know what we are getting involved in; that is Program Management

Kelly – contract lapsed; asked if any negotiations going on.

Jon Anderson, Esq. – he is the attorney and is here to get direction from the School Committee on how to proceed.

Elementary Report Card Update – Kim Mercer - Report Card Committee worked on this; no longer progress report, will be Progress Card; new disciplines; wanted grade by quarter; concrete specific skills each quarter; aligned to standards – October 3rd first quarter.

Ms. Beauchaine – old ones had no information; she looked at others and all are doing this; has a lot of information and tells what the child is doing; Middletown has a pamphlet on what child is doing

Mr. Monteiro – definitions for evaluation team?

Kim Mercer – look at ELA section; key details; math, if standard, graded to work done that quarter; takes multiple measures into consideration.

Mr. Monteiro had concerns.

Stacy Messier – these are end of quarter standards; will have to work on to pinpoint more; better than what we had, but still needs more work.

Mr. Monteiro – report card should show where expected to be at specific time; should be reflective of what child exposed to.

Mr. Cahoon – will be in Skyward; how many kids got certain grades; if not unattainable

Enrollment for 2015/16 School Year up slightly; Kindergarten up one class.

Ms. Beauchaine asked to put number of Early Learning Center in the Waddington building number.

Elimination of any Course Studies in the District – Kim Mercer reported that at this point in time, Latin running; art studio not running; will get permission to run; this is the only class she knows of at this time.

Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement

Resignation

Julie A. Motta, Assistant Superintendent, Effective August 31, 2015

Action Items

Approval of Job Description for HVAC Mechanic – Mr. Reynolds requested approval; discussion held at Facilities Sub Committee meeting.

Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine.

Vote 5-0. Discussion regarding reclassification.

Approval of Math League at High School – Kim Mercer recommended approval; motion made by Ms. Beauchaine to approve, seconded by

Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Approval of the Bradley Contract and Consultative Model at Silver Spring – Kelly, parent, asked what is School Committee voting on.

Mr. Cahoon stated that it would be just on Bradley.

Ms. Crudele – Bradley asked and we have to continue at Martin Middle School and High School; nothing at Silver Spring. Mr. Ferreira – should be discussing \$30,000 is what you need; if we spend extra money but want to rely on Ms. Crudele to come back to report; would rather overspend on the pilot program; School Committee will support what you need for supplies; this is important for the community; feel free with Superintendent's permission; further discussion about Craft and Bradley Programs.

Ms. Beauchaine – put support to East Providence teachers; will make sure we have the support.

Mr. Monteiro– taking ownership and doing it ourselves; shorter line of communication for our parents

Kelly – should ask to get more resources from Craft Program

Mr. Monteiro –get state reps, senators, to amend the laws

Mr. Cahoon – debated items; issue with community coming from Silver Spring to us; assign one of us to keep an eye out as representatives of parents; he would be happy to do that to take pressure off; asked to put on next agenda; discussion about funding for kids for East Providence; Bradley and Craft programs.

Mr. Ferreira – only way we can help people is here; we will research everything brought before us; sooner we fix programs better success.

Mary Teixeira – teacher at Silver Spring – Craft Program has and does not work here; it does work; we have been talking about it for years; never sat down with them; success stories there; we see something that works taken away; she will come to meeting if this does not work; asked what is the emergency backup plan.

Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve contract and consultative model at Silver Spring, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Mr. Monteiro to add Silver Spring Consultative Model to Superintendent's Report to update where we are with hiring personnel, etc. We need complete transparency to know if additional resources are needed to be proactive, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Ms. Crudele - consultant from Craft meets with team/staff weekly as written in their book.

Personnel Appointments and Recalls

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine requested to bring to open session after executive session, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Requisitions – Bill List

Warrant #

1528 7/2/15 \$ 806,096.47

1529 7/9/15 \$1,297,665.38

1530 7/9/15 \$ 157,056.68

1527 6/23/15 \$ 336,219.34

Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

SMMA – Orlo Fire Alarm Invoice 42970 \$982.98

Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

SMMA – Egress Door Repair Invoice 43056 \$5,876.16 Clarification from SMMA – check returned to us last year. Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

SMMA – Accessibility upgrades Invoice #42971 \$1,673.38

Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Bahry Building Company Whiteknact Roof Invoice #4 \$4,000.00

Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Strategic Building Solutions Orlo Fire Alarm and District Doors Phase

II Invoice #13839

\$3,460.00 (Linda Dykeman requested itemized bills going forward)

Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Strategic Building Solutions Fire Department Assessment Invoice #13697 (\$3,037.00) and Invoice 13840 (\$1,086.00) Total \$4,123.00

Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Red Oak Remodeling Bathroom Remodeling at Waddington School \$37,850.00

Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, Seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

E. W. Burman, Inc. \$13,705.00 and \$41,629.55

Motion by Mr. Ferreira to approve, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items - None

Announcements – Mr. Cahoon has information for districts who want to introduce language frequency for their district (kids speaking multiple languages) will send to Superintendent Mercer.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon that the Committee convene in Executive

Session for purposes of discussing: Personnel – R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1); Collective Bargaining R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2); Litigation//Pending Litigation-R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2), seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

(9:30PM)

School Committee returned to Public Session at 11:00PM. Motion made by Mr. Cahoon to return to public session and to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Report Executive Session Votes – Mr. Cahoon reported that a vote was taken in executive session to approve personnel actions as follows:

Appointments

Loretta Monahan – Secretary at EP High School – Nurse’s Office – Effective 8/31/15

Sandra Forand – Principal – Martin Middle School – Effective 8/17/15

Appointments/Transfers

Shani Wallace – Principal – East Providence High School – Effective August 17, 2015

Frank DeVall – Assistant Principal – East Providence High School – Effective August 24, 2015

Elaine Allen – Principal – Hennessey School – Effective August 24,

2015

Stephen Prew – Principal – Kent Heights School – Effective August 24, 2015

Motion seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Roll call vote: Ms. Beauchaine, aye; Mr. Cahoon, aye; Mr. Ferreira, nay; Mr. Monteiro, aye; Mr. Tsonos, aye; Vote 4-1.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to adjourn at 11:00PM, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee